

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 08823 291908 Z

72

ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AF-10

ARA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NASA-04

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OIC-04 PA-03 PRS-01 RSC-01

GAC-01 SCI-06 SS-14 MBFR-03 USIA-12 SAJ-01 NSF-04

SCEM-02 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 RSR-01 /245 W

----- 056095

R 291645 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8753

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

S E C R E T PARIS 8823

NOFORN

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, FR, CH

SUBJECT: FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING

REF: PARIS 6421

1. SUMMARY. MARCH 27 LE MONDE CARRIED FRONT- PAGE EDITORIAL IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT' S UNWILLINGNESS TO DISCLOSE OBJECTIVES AND TIMETABLE FOR ITS NUCLEAR TEST PROGRAM. DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL WAS UNABLE SUGGEST ANY WAY OUT OF PRESENT IMPASSE CAUSED BY FRANCE CONSIDERING TESTING PROGRAM ESSENTIAL TO ITS NATIONAL SECURITY AND GROWING AUSTRALIAN AND SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 08823 291908 Z

NEW ZEALAND CRITICISM AND IMPLIED THREATS OF DIRECT ACTION AGAINST FRENCH TESTING PROGRAM. PRESSURE FOR THE US TO TAKE A STAND ON THE QUESTION MAY INCREASE THIS YEAR.
END SUMMARY

2. EDITORIAL IN MARCH 27 LE MONDE QUOTES FRENCH AMBASSADOR AT CANBERRA AS TELLING AUSTRALIAN TELEVISION THAT FRANCE WAS APPROACHING TIME WHEN ITS ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR TESTS WOULD NO LONGER BE NECESSARY BUT NOTES THAT THE AMBASSADOR REFUSED TO SPECIFY HOW MUCH LONGER THE TESTS WOULD CONTINUE. EDITORIAL STATES THAT FRENCH EFFORTS TO AVOID CRITICISM OF TESTS BY REFUSING TO ANNOUNCE THEIR EXISTENCE HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN QUIETING WORLDWIDE PROTESTATIONS.

3. EDITORIAL NOTES US, WHICH HAS SEVERAL " ACCOUNTS TO SETTLE" WITH FRANCE IN THE " STRICT SENSE OF THE TERM," (I. E. , TRADE AND MONE- TARY MATTERS), MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO CREATE SEVERAL PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, EDITORIAL SAYS " THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY AT PARIS HAS STRONGLY COUNSELED ITS GOVERNMENT NOT TO MIX THE ATOM, MONETARY PROBLEMS AND COMMERCE."

4. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY ARGUING THAT FRENCH PUBLIC AS WELL AS AUSTRALIANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW HOW LONG TESTS WILL CON- TINUE, UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS THEY WILL BE HELD, AND HOW MUCH THEY WILL COST.

5. EMBOFF TOLD BOTH QUAI (DIRECTOR, PACTS AND DISARMAMENT) AND DEFENSE MINISTER DEBRE' S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR THAT IMPLICATION THAT EMBASSY AND/ OR WASHINGTON HAD EVEN CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF THREATENING TO RELEASE INFORMATION ON FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS UNLESS FRANCE GRANTED US COMMERCIAL CONCESSIONS WAS UTTERLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. QUAI OFFICIAL SAID HIS COLLEAGUES HAD BEEN " ASTONISHED" BY LE MONDE EDITORIAL AND THANKING US FOR INFORMATION SAID HE WOULD PASS OUR COMMENTS ON TO QUAI DIRECTOR GENERAL DE COURCEL.

6. DEF MIN OFFICIAL ALSO THANKED US FOR INFORMATION, ADDING THAT LE MODE WAS LEADING A VERITABLE CAMPAIGN AGAINST FRENCH TEST PROGRAM.

7. DEF MIN OFFICIAL NOTED GOF HAD MANAGED TO DEAL WITH LAST YEAR' S THREATS BY PERU TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH FRANCE IF FRENCH
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 08823 291908 Z

CONTINUED TESTING, BY REFUSING TO ANNOUNCE TESTS HAD TAKEN

PLACE. (AND ALSO, OF COURSE, BY JUDICIOUS AID MEASURES.)
FRENCH, HE SAID, WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE " DISCRETION" THE RULE.

8. HOWEVER, OFFICIAL CONTINUED, FRENCH RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL
DIFFICULTIES WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ARE FAR MORE
SERIOUS THAN LAST YEAR' S PROBLEMS WITH THE LATIN AMERICANS.
DEF MIN OFFICIAL SAID FRENCH BELIEVE NEITHER AUSTRALIA NOR
NEW ZEALAND WILL SEND WARSHIPS TO THE TEST SITE ALTHOUGH
PRIVATE VESSELS WERE ALREADY REPORTEDLY ON THEIR WAY. FRANCE,
HE CONTINUED, WAS QUITE WILLING TO DISCUSS HER TEST PROGRAM
PRIVATELY WITH AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENTS IN
HOPES OF AVOIDING CONFRONTATION.

9. OFFICIAL IMPLIED GOF WAS NOT IN POSITION TO ACCEPT
LE MODE' S SUGGESTION THAT IT ANNOUNCE TIMETABLE, CONDITIONS
AND COSTS OF FUTURE TESTING PROGRAM. HE SAID GOF HAD BEEN
STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF UNDERGROUND TESTS BUT
E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS08823
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: CORE6
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730341/aaaailnk.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Reference: 73 PARIS 6421
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 16 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <17-Oct-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980107
Subject: FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING
TAGS: PARM, CH, FR
To: PM
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CANBERRA
GENEVA
LIMA
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

